WAYNESBORO, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Council for the City of Waynesboro, Virginia held a Regular Business Meeting on Monday, May 13, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Charles T. Yancey Municipal Building, 503 West Main Street, Waynesboro, Virginia, with Mayor Short presiding and calling the meeting to order:

PRESENT: Council Members: Terry Short, Jr., Mayor
Bobby Henderson, Vice Mayor
Bruce Allen, Councilman
Elzena Anderson, Councilwoman
Sam Hostetler, Councilman

City Staff: Mike Hamp, City Manager
Jim Shaw, Deputy City Manager
Julia Bortle, Clerk of Council
Cameron McCormick, Finance Director
Luke Juday, Planning Director
Michael Wilhelm, Police Chief
Zahir Mahmoud, Library Director
Stephanie Beveridge, City Treasurer
Sabrina von Schilling, Commissioner of the Revenue

Guests: Ms. Kaitlyn Hall, Student at Kate Collins Middle School
Ms. Janet Areson, Virginia Municipal League

Outside Counsel: Melisa Michelsen, Esq., Litten & Sipe LLC

ABSENT: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Mayor Short opened the meeting Councilman Allen lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

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CONSENT AGENDA:

Vice Mayor Henderson moved to adopt the consent agenda as presented. Having been seconded, the consent agenda was adopted 5-0:

Mayor Short Aye Councilwoman Anderson Aye
Vice Mayor Henderson Aye Councilman Hostetler Aye
Councilman Allen Aye

a) Council Meeting Minutes: Consider adopting the April 17, 2019 Budget Work Session minutes and the April 22, 2019 Council Meeting minutes and dispense with the reading of the minutes.

b) City Code Amendment – Concealed Handgun Permit Fingerprinting (2019-35)
Regular Business Meeting  
Monday, May 13, 2019  
Adopted May 28, 2019  

c) Fall Foliage Festival Application: Consider approving an application from the Shenandoah Valley Art Center to allow the closure of certain streets and the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages on city property on Saturday, October 12 (from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.) and Sunday, October 13, 2019 (from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.) during the Fall Foliage Art Show.

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COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Councilman Hostetter welcomed Scout Troup 273 to the meeting, attending as part of their citizenship in the community merit badge. He also thanked the citizens who attended his monthly meeting on Tuesday, talking about the budget and other items of importance to them.

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PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE TO VML “IF I WERE A MAYOR” CONTEST WINNER:

The Mayor and Ms. Areson presented a plaque and check to Kate Collins Middle School student Kaitlyn Hull, Region 3 winner in the Virginia Municipal League’s “If I Were A Mayor” essay contest.

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PROCLAMATION – POLICE WEEK AND PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY:

The Mayor read a proclamation and presented it to the Police Chief observing May 12-18, 2019 as National Police Week and Wednesday, May 15, 2019 as Peace Officers Memorial Day in the City of Waynesboro, Virginia:

PROCLAMATION (P29-00)

WHEREAS, the Congress and President of the United States have designated May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day, and the week in which it falls as Police Week; and

WHEREAS, the members of law enforcement for the City of Waynesboro, Virginia work tirelessly to protect and serve citizens across the City, enforce our laws, and keep our neighborhoods, schools, and families safe; and

WHEREAS, it is important that all citizens know and understand the problems, duties and responsibilities of their police department, that the police officers report for duty aware of the sacrifices they may be called upon to make and risk their lives each and every day in order to safeguard the public; and

WHEREAS, the police department of Waynesboro, Virginia has developed into a modern and scientific law enforcement agency which unceasingly provides a vital public service;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Terry R. Short, Jr., Mayor, on behalf of the City Council of Waynesboro, call upon all citizens of Waynesboro and upon all patriotic, civic and educational organizations to reflect upon the selfless dedication and bravery of our local, state, and other public sector police, as our safety and well-being is promoted by their devotion to maintaining peace and security in our communities;

I FURTHER call upon all citizens to observe the week of May 12-18, 2019, as Police Week, asking all citizens to join in commemorating police officers, past and present, who by their faithful and loyal devotion to their responsibilities have rendered a dedicated service to their communities, and
Wednesday, May 15, 2019 as Peace Officer Memorial Day dedicated to those who lost their lives in the performance of their duties.

WITNESS WHEREOF, I here unto set my hand and cause the Seal of the City of Waynesboro to be affixed this 13th day of May, 2019.

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PRESENTATION – CITY MANAGER’S RECOMMENDED FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET:

As a prelude to the upcoming budget public hearings, the City Manager made a presentation reviewing the City Manager’s Recommended Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget. The FY20 budget moves away from a focus of affordability and focuses on the Comprehensive Plan, capital improvements and mandated projects.

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PUBLIC HEARING - TAXES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2019:

A public hearing was held to receive public comments regarding the proposed ordinance imposing taxes for the calendar year 2019 on property and persons, for the payment of interest on the City debt, for the support of City government, for the maintenance of the public schools, and for other expenses providing for the assessment of persons and property, for the collection of taxes, revenues, assessments and imposing penalties for the failure to comply with the provisions hereof.

The public hearing was opened at 7:57 p.m.: 

Brett Hayes, Owner of Zeus Theater: favored the tax increase. Asked City Council to eliminate the two-year delay in allocating the 42% to the school division.

Jeff Elkins, 700 Second Street: suggested the City look at property value instead of a set percentage for assessment. The city should consider reimbursement through insurance companies for the use of its resources. He asked the City to produce a P&L statement that shows where stormwater funds have been used.

Harry Colman, 105 Tiffany Drive: supports the $.90 real estate tax rate.

Alfred Swicegood, 228 Stonewall Drive: is opposed to the $.90 tax rate.

Bill Krzastek, 1321 Hollins Road: asked for a response from Council to his previous questions and further information on the comparable cities to Waynesboro in the 34 out of 38 rating.

Tyisha Scott, 348 Port Republic Road: would like to see treatment facilities in Waynesboro, improved City transportation, and more readily available affordable housing.

James Wiley, 925 Washington Avenue: supports higher taxes to support the police, fire, and better schools and making Waynesboro better.

C.R. Barrett, 401 Ridge Circle: opposes raising taxes and fees.

Ken Adams, 712 Pelham Drive: opposes the tax increase.

Chanda McGuffin, 644 Edwardian Lane: supports the higher tax rate, but asked Council to consider the marginalized citizens.

Sara Christopherson, 1118 Fairway Drive: supports the proposed tax, but she suggested the tax bills be broken into two payment, making it easier to pay.

Kristi Williams, 400 Pelham Drive: supports the tax increase.

Lowell Lemons, 305 Pelham Drive: supports the tax increase.
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Darcie Martin, 700 Rife Road: supports the tax increase.

With other people signed up to speak, the Mayor opened the floor to anyone else wishing to speak:

Alex Naleto, 890 Hawthorne Lane: asked Council to consider the impact of the recent China tariff policy that will have an impact on everyone.

Keith Donnelly, 561 Chestnut Avenue: the way to keep employees is to provide a living wage, and providing adequate public services is the way to attract a tax base that improves the City.

Scott Seaton, 25 Wellington Place, Augusta County: spoke about the negative impact of increased taxes on property owners and potential businesses.

Francine Johnson, 409 Beta Street: hoped Council will consider lower-income people and those on fixed incomes.

Jennifer Lewis, 113 Iris Drive: supports the tax increase.

With no additional speakers, the public hearing was closed at 8:58 p.m.

Vice Mayor Henderson moved to introduce an ordinance IMPOSING TAXES ($0.90 per every $100 of assessed real estate value and $3.25 on every $100 of assessed value on personal property) FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2019 ON PROPERTY AND PERSONS, FOR THE PAYMENT OF INTEREST ON THE CITY DEBT, FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT, FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, AND FOR OTHER EXPENSES, PROVIDING FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY, FOR THE COLLECTION OF TAXES, REVENUES, ASSESSMENTS AND IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR THE FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS HEREOF. Having been properly introduced, this ordinance will be considered again at the May 28, 2019 Regular Business Meeting.

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PUBLIC HEARING – WATER AND SEWER CHARGES, FEES, RATES:

A public hearing was held to receive public comments regarding the proposed ordinance amending the Code of the City of Waynesboro to increase water utility service charges, fees, and rates and sewer utility service charges and rates.

The public hearing was opened at 8:59 p.m.

Parker Williams, 418 Dinwiddie Avenue: simultaneously raising the water, sewer, stormwater, personal property, and real estate taxes will reduce disposable income. It benefits the few at the expense of the many, taking from those who need it most is irresponsible.

With no other speakers, the public hearing was closed at 9:01 p.m.

Councilwoman Anderson moved to introduce an ordinance amending Sections 30-58(c)(3)(a), 30-58(c)(3)(b), 86-28(a)(1), 86-28(a)(2), and 86-139(a) of the Code of the City of Waynesboro to increase water utility service charges, fees, and rates and sewer utility service charges and rates. Having been properly introduced, this ordinance will be considered again at the May 28, 2019 Regular Business Meeting.

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PUBLIC HEARING - FISCAL YEAR 2020 OPERATING BUDGET:

A public hearing was held to receive public comments regarding the recommended Annual Operating Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.

The public hearing was opened at 9:01 p.m.
Kevin Chisnell, 325 Elizabeth Avenue: understands half of the increase goes to the schools, and agrees it is important to provide livable wages to workers and to move the City forward.

Karen Sellers, 173 Harper Street, Weyers Cave: as representative for the Waynesboro Education Association, asked that the funds used to improve the high school be kept separate from the money needed to give the teachers and school staff raises.

Marica Geiger, 701 Locust Avenue: endorses the proposed budget. It is also critical to implement the Comprehensive Plan.

Margaret Christiansen VanHuss, 1840 Westminster Road: the current state of the schools seems counter to the Strategic Plan. She asked Council to revisit the funding formula for the schools.

Alex Stevens, 2420 Village Drive: asked Council to ensure there are the proper number of teachers, aids, and other critical school needs. Asked Council to rethink the funding formula.

Scott Seaton (left meeting).

Jenny Kirby (left meeting).

William Kirckendall, 109 Holland Circle: asked Council to follow the Comprehensive Plan. He supports the $.90 tax rate.

Erika Smith, 1109 Jefferson Avenue, member of Waynesboro School Board: she asked Council to help keep teachers in the classroom and staff in the buildings.

Diana Williams, 185 S. Delphine Avenue, member of Waynesboro School Board: requested additional funding for Waynesboro Public Schools and for the creation of an emergency fund to avoid budgetary reductions.

Karl Stein, 8130 Oak Avenue (left meeting).

Sara Christopherson (left meeting).

Leroy Wells (left meeting).

C.R. Barrett, 401 Ridge Circle (left meeting).

Andrea Walgren 1732 W. Main Street: She supports the $.90 tax rate.

Keith Donnelly (left meeting).

The public hearing was closed at 9:31 p.m.

Councilman Hostetter moved to introduce the ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BILL OF THE CITY OF WAYNESBORO VIRGINIA FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2020. Having been properly introduced, this ordinance will be considered again at the May 28, 2019 Regular Business Meeting.

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PUBLIC HEARING – CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT – ELEVATED WATER STORAGE TANK

The Planning Director made a presentation regarding a conditional use permit request by the City of Waynesboro, Virginia, to allow a 178-foot elevated water storage tank in the H-I (Heavy Industrial) District at Nature’s Crossing Industrial Park located at 1625 South Delphine Avenue and 51 South Oak Lane (attachment 46-50). The cost estimate of bringing utilities to the site is estimated at more than $10 to $12 million dollars which is on the unplanned and unfunded CIP list. Council would have to institute a tax increase and a bond issue if it chooses to construct utilities for the site. Approving it now would allow funds to be spent once appropriated.
The Planning Commission voted 6-0 to recommend approval of the conditional use permit (CUP 19-329) for an elevated water storage tank in accordance with the application and staff report dated April 16, 2019. No conditions were recommended by the Planning Commission.

The public hearing was opened at 9:37 p.m. With no one signed up to speak, the public hearing was closed. Councilwoman Anderson moved to introduce an ordinance GRANTING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW AN ELEVATED WATER STORAGE TANK AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES IN THE H-I (HEAVY INDUSTRIAL) DISTRICT AT A PROPERTY ON SOUTH DELPHINE AVENUE (TAX MAP #72-4-16-A1), WAYNESBORO, VIRGINIA. Having been properly introduced, this ordinance will be considered again at the May 28, 2019 Regular Business Meeting.

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PUBLIC HEARING – ZONING CODE AMENDMENT – SHORT-TERM RENTALS:

The Planning Director made a presentation (attachment 46-51) regarding an ordinance amending the City Zoning Ordinance to allow homestays and short-term rentals (fewer than 30 days, sometimes referred to as air bnb) in all districts where residential uses are allowed by-right, and an ordinance amending the City Code for the City of Waynesboro, Virginia, to amend Chapter 78 requiring all operators of homestays and short-term rentals to register with the Commissioner of the Revenue, obtain a business license, and remit transient lodging tax in accordance with the provisions of City Code Section 78-126, and a change to the Zoning Code that allows homestays and short-term rentals in all legal dwelling units.

The Planning Commission recommended amending the ordinances to remove all changes to the table of uses and instead add a line stating that “short-term rentals are allowed in all legal dwelling units.” Planning Commission recommended approval 6-0 of the ordinances as amended.

The public hearing was opened at 9:48 p.m. With no one signed up to speak, the public hearing was closed. Councilman Hostetter moved to introduce an ordinance AMENDING CHAPTER 78, ARTICLE 5, TRANSIENT LODGING, SECTIONS 78-121 AND 78-131 OF THE CITY CODE OF WAYNESBORO, VIRGINIA AND AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 98, ARTICLES 2, 4, AND 10, ZONING ORDINANCES, OF THE CITY CODE OF WAYNESBORO, VIRGINIA. Having been properly introduced, these ordinances will be considered again at the May 28, 2019 Regular Business Meeting.

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PUBLIC HEARING – CITY CODE AMENDMENT – ELECTRONIC SIGNS IN RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS:

In 2017, the City Council adopted an ordinance banning electronic signs in residential districts. The Planning Director made a presentation (attachment 46-52) regarding a request to amend the City Code for the City of Waynesboro, Virginia to allow electronic signs in residential districts as an accessory to publicly-owned government facilities.

The Planning Commission recommended approval 6-0 of the request (ZTA 19-333) for a zoning text amendment in accordance with the application and staff report dated April 16, 2019 with the following changes:

1. Electronic changeable copy signs are prohibited in residential districts, except as an accessory to publicly owned government facilities.
2. Electronic changeable copy signs in residential districts shall not operate between the hours of 10:00 PM and 6:00 AM.
3. Electronic changeable copy signs shall be subject to such reasonable brightness limitations as staff shall research and recommend to Council.
Vice Mayor Henderson moved to extend the Council meeting past the 10:00 p.m. deadline. Having been seconded and with no objections, the motion was adopted:

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Vote</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mayor Short</td>
<td>Aye</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice Mayor Henderson</td>
<td>Aye</td>
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<tr>
<td>Councilman Allen</td>
<td>Aye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councilwoman Anderson</td>
<td>Aye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councilman Hostetter</td>
<td>Aye</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

There was then a five-minute break.

The public hearing was opened at 10:02 p.m.

Zahir Mahmoud, Library Director: spoke in favor of an electronic sign being permitted at the Public Library.

Kevin Ryan, 1007 Fairway Drive, president of the Friends of the Library: spoke in favor of the electronic sign at the Library.

Alison Schultz, 1130 Fairway Drive: supports the electronic sign ordinance.

Lowell Lemons, 305 Pelham Drive: supports the electronic sign ordinance.

With no one else signed up to speak, the public hearing was closed at 10:13 p.m. Vice Mayor Henderson moved to introduce an ordinance AMENDING CHAPTER 98, ARTICLE V, SECTION 5.6.6(C) OF THE CITY CODE OF THE CITY OF WAYNESBORO, VIRGINIA. Having been properly introduced, this ordinance will be considered again at the May 28, 2019 Regular Business Meeting.

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CODE AMENDMENT: INOPERABLE AND ABANDONED VEHICLES:

In order to align the City Code with the Code of Virginia, Council was asked to consider amending Chapter 82, Traffic and Vehicles, Article I, In General, Section 82-1, and IV, Inoperable and Abandoned Vehicles, Section 82-121, 82-131-137, and 82-151-156, of the City Code of Waynesboro, Virginia. The ordinance allows the City to contract with private companies to tow and store the inoperable vehicles found in the public right of way, with the vehicle then becoming the responsibility of the towing company.

Councilman Hostetter moved to introduce an ordinance AMENDING CHAPTER 82, TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES, ARTICLE I, IN GENERAL, SECTION 82-1 AND IV, INOPERABLE AND ABANDONED VEHICLES, SECTIONS 8-121, 82-131-137, AND 82-151-156 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF WAYNESBORO, VIRGINIA. Having been properly introduced, this ordinance will be considered again at the May 28, 2019 Regular Business Meeting.

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APPROPRIATION ORDINANCES:

Assessor’s Department Transfer to Treasurer Department: Councilwoman Anderson moved to introduce an ordinance transferring a portion of unspent funds in the Assessor’s Department, in the amount of $3,062, to the Treasurer’s Department, for interest owed on an erroneous tax assessment. Having been properly introduced, this ordinance will be considered again at the May 28, 2019 Regular Business Meeting.

Parks and Recreation – VA Forestry Grant Appropriation: Vice Mayor Henderson moved to introduce an ordinance appropriating a Virginia Department of Forestry Grant in the amount of $6,000 to the General Fund, to reimburse for tree removal expenditures in the Streets Department. Having been
properly introduced, this ordinance will be considered again at the May 28, 2019 Regular Business Meeting.

**Fire Department – VML Insurance Proceeds:** Councilman Hostetter moved to introduce an ordinance appropriating $21,509 of insurance proceeds to the General Fund for repairs to a damaged fire engine. Having been properly introduced, this ordinance will be considered again at the May 28, 2019 Regular Business Meeting.

**Sheriff Department – Video Conferencing Equipment:** Councilwoman Anderson moved to introduce an ordinance appropriating a portion of the Courthouse Security Reserve, in the amount of $6,046, to the General Fund, to purchase video conferencing equipment for the Circuit Courtroom. Having been properly introduced, this ordinance will be considered again at the May 28, 2019 Regular Business Meeting.

**Public Works – Landfill Groundwater Remediation:** Vice Mayor Henderson moved to introduce an ordinance appropriating a portion of Unassigned Fund Balance in the General Fund, in the amount of $30,900 to the General Fund, for groundwater remediation services at the Landfill. Having been properly introduced, this ordinance will be considered again at the May 28, 2019 Regular Business Meeting.

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**COMMUNICATION, CORRESPONDENCE, AND CALENDAR:**

The City Manager reminded everyone that next week is National Peace Officer Week and Peace Officer Memorial Day is on Wednesday, May 15.

During the week of May 19, staff will be conducting tours of the treatment facilities and Mulberry Wetlands, and information is available on the City’s website.

He also asked that citizens complete the customer satisfaction survey for the solid waste program that can be found on the City’s website.

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**CITIZEN COMMENT PERIOD:**

*Bill Krzastek, 1321 Hollins Road:* asked the City to look into a procedure for locating vehicle owners of vehicles considered abandoned and towed. He would like feedback regarding increasing the time allocated for traffic to pass through the traffic light at the corner of Windigrove and Rosser. He asked the City to reconsider the proposed roundabout at the corner of 13th Street and Rosser Avenue, due to cost and timing of project.

Chanda McGuffin (left the meeting).

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**CLOSED MEETING:**

Vice Mayor Henderson moved to recess into a closed meeting in order to consult with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by the attorney, as authorized by section 2.2-3711(A)(8) of the Virginia Code. The subject matter of the meeting was the budget and tax rate ordinance.

The motion was adopted on a roll call vote as follows

- Mayor Terry Short, Jr., Aye
- Vice Mayor Robert Henderson Aye
- Councilman Bruce Allen Aye
Councilwoman Elzenia Anderson  Aye  
Councilman Sam Hostetter    Aye

Council recessed into Closed Meeting at 10:25 p.m.  
Council came out of the closed meeting and convened into open meeting at 10:44 p.m.

Vice Mayor Henderson moved to adopt the following resolution as read in its entirety:

CERTIFICATION RESOLUTION (R19-97)

With respect to the just-concluded closed session, and to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under The Virginia Freedom of Information Act and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting by the Council.

The resolution was adopted on a roll call vote as follows:

Mayor Terry Short, Jr..  Aye
Vice Mayor Robert Henderson  Aye
Councilman Bruce Allen    Aye
Councilwoman Elzenia Anderson Aye
Councilman Sam Hostetter    Aye

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With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p.m. on a motion by Councilman Hostetter.

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Julia Bortle, MMC, Clerk of Council  

______________________________  
Terry Short, Jr., Mayor
ZTA: Short-term rentals

Zoning Text Amendment 19-340
Applicant: Planning Commission
Background

- Websites allow homeowners to rent homes and rooms to overnight guests

- Largest: AirBnB.com

- Waynesboro has 10-15 spaces in private residences listed on the site on any given weekend
Background

- Short-term rentals create a regulatory conundrum
  - Controversial in many tourist-oriented localities
- Virginia passed enabling legislation in 2017
- Waynesboro currently has no ordinance addressing the existence of short-term rentals
Proposed Changes

- Change affects two chapters of City Code
  - Chapter 78 (tax code)
  - Chapter 98 (zoning code)

- Defines “homestay” and “short-term rental” separately
  - Homestay: owner occupies home and rents out a portion of it
  - Short-term rental: owner does not occupy home

- No difference in how the two are regulated for now
Proposed Changes to Tax Code

- Tax code (chapter 78)
  - Requires operators to acquire a business license and pay a registration fee of $50.00 annually
  - Establishes a registry of short-term rentals, to be maintained by Commissioner of Revenue
  - Requires short-term rentals to remit transient lodging tax equivalent to the amount paid by hotels and inns
Proposed Changes to Zoning Code

- Allows homestays and short-term rentals in all legal dwelling units
- No exterior signage may be displayed
- Operators may not rent to more than 1 party at a time (becomes an inn)
- Health, safety, and welfare
  - No prepared food may be served
  - Subject to inspection once annually
  - Must comply with building code
  - Working smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, and CO detectors
- License may be revoked after 3 violations, short term rental of the property prohibited for the following calendar year
Analysis and Recommendation

- Short-term rentals fit the City’s vision, bring many upsides
  - Added revenue source for homeowners, especially empty-nesters, homeowners with room to spare
  - Increased incentive to repair and maintain homes
  - Adds nominal amount to tax base
  - Boosts tourism market

- Downsides of short-term rentals unlikely to be significant in Waynesboro
  - Impact on affordable housing
  - Neighborhood nuisances
  - Effect on hotel industry
Analysis and Recommendation

- Ordinance will add low barrier to entry for operators
  - $50 fee, business license, remitting lodging tax
  - Fulfills City’s obligation to protect health, safety, and welfare of residents and visitors
  - Gives City ability to shut down bad actors
  - Clarifies regulatory environment

- Planning Commission recommends approval on 6-0 vote
ZTA: Electronic changeable copy signs on public property in residential districts

Zoning Text Amendment 19-333
Applicant: City Council
Background

- 2017 Ordinance amendment clarified electronic signs banned in residential districts

- Immediate concern is Waynesboro Public Library wish to erect a sign on Wayne Avenue
Background

- Purpose of the sign ordinance:
  - To protect public safety by ensuring that traffic signs and devices are easily visible and free from obstruction or other distraction caused by signs;
  - To ensure that signs are designed, constructed, installed and maintained in a way that protects life, health, property and the public welfare, especially during periods of high winds;
  - To support the desired character of Waynesboro, as expressed in adopted City plans and to promote an attractive visual environment;
  - To control the size, placement, and use of signs and other attention-gathering paraphernalia in order to preserve the right of citizens to enjoy Waynesboro's natural scenic beauty; and
  - To address ongoing technological advancements in the sign industry that continue to result in new sign types.
## Current Ordinance

### Signs Requiring Permits

<table>
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<tr>
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**Standards**

(a) Changeable copy signs may be included as a part of a permitted monument sign in any nonresidential district.

(b) The information displayed on a changeable copy sign shall remain static for a minimum period of four seconds at a time.

(c) No signs that are not permanently affixed to the ground may be considered eligible for consideration as changeable copy signs.

(d) Electronic signs are prohibited in residential districts.

(Ord. No. 2017-43, 10/5/17)
Background
Proposed Change

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<td>(d) Electronic signs are prohibited in residential districts, except as an accessory to publicly owned government facilities.</td>
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(Ord. No. 2017-43, 10/5/17)
Analysis

- Text amendment would allow electronic signs at government-owned buildings in residential districts. These could include schools, community centers, and other civic institutions.

- Text amendment would not allow signs at privately owned buildings in residential districts, including homes, churches, apartment complexes, and non-conforming commercial buildings.
Planning Commission Rec.

- Planning Commission recommends approval on 6-0 vote with the following amendments:
  - Signs on or adjacent to residential districts must be switched off between 10:00 PM and 6:00 AM
  - Signs on or adjacent to residential districts must be kept below such reasonable brightness limitations as staff shall research and recommend to Council
Brightness

• Brightness limitations:
  - Luminance commonly measured in “nits”
    • One candela (candle) per square meter
    • Typical LCD TV or computer screen is somewhere around 200-500 nits
  - Model ordinances generally limit signs to 5,000 nits during daylight hours and 250 nits at night.
    • Requires light sensor on sign
    • City currently has no equipment or training to test for luminance
    • Proposed ordinance would require installer to certify that sign has been tested
  - If Council wishes to pass this amendment, the public hearing must be continued and the ordinance introduced at the next meeting
CUP: Nature’s Crossing Technology Center

elevated water storage tank

Conditional Use Permit 19-329
Applicant: City of Waynesboro
Background

- City acquired 177 acre property in 2011 to attract major industrial employer
- VDOT Southern Corridor project will bring road access
- Planning grant to design and estimate cost to bring utilities to the site
Proposed Water Storage Tank

- 500,000 gallon capacity
- 178 feet high
- +/- 1 acre tank site
  - Must comply with site development ordinance
  - Set back from Delphine Avenue
- Nature’s Crossing Technology Center branding
Visual impact
Analysis and Recommendation

- Tower will have no significantly greater impacts than any use allowed by-right in H-I

- Currently on unplanned unfunded list
  - City Council will need to initiate a tax increase and bond issue to construct
  - Approval will allow funds to be spent once appropriated

- Planning Commission recommends approval with no conditions on 6-0 vote
Good Evening. My name is Bill Krzastek, 1321 Hollins Road. I came before Council at your last meeting to express my concerns and to ask questions:
Specifically, I asked:
1) Why, when the city had additional revenue streams totaling $1.75 million dollars from the Town Center and the Stormwater fee, did our taxes increase from 80 to 90 cents from 2016 through 2018 instead of going down.
2) I also asked if our tax dollars are being used to fund incentives for experienced teachers to retire. This incentive totals $7,800 for the first year then $4,200 per year until the retired teacher reaches age 65. I asked if our tax money is being used to subsidize people for not working.
I have not had a response from anyone on Council and this is concerning as I always had a response from past Councils on my concerns.

As I was asked to present to Council my written comments from the last meeting, I thought it would be prudent of me to also provide and produce documentation to support my comment on the $8.00 difference in Starting Salary between Augusta County and Waynesboro schools. I have highlighted the appropriate line item. Based upon this $8.00 difference, the huge increase in proposed taxes on my property alone will be able to make up this difference for 41 ½ new teachers! This is just not right.

I also am providing documentation as to my comment about funding experienced teachers for not working. I include a copy of the Waynesboro School Board minutes of March 19, 2019. Under Item 4, Section F, you will find listed “Retirement Incentive Program” which was approved at this meeting.

I will have additional comments and questions which I will reserve for the General Citizen Comment period.
Thank you.
## 2018-2019 Salary Scales (for the last 9 months of the fiscal year)

### Teacher

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### Advance Degree Additive Schedule for Teachers:

(advance degrees are included in base salary on your contract)

- 9 hrs. towards Master's Degree: 793
- 18 hrs. towards Master's Degree: 1,163
- Master's Degree: 2,843
- 15 hrs. beyond Master's Degree: 3,172
- 30 hrs. beyond Master's Degree: 3,436
- Doctorate: 4,758
- National Board Certification: 1,322
- Certificate Clinical Competence: 1,322
- Dual Masters: 3,436
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**Advanced Degree & Certification Supplements**

- $3,070  Master's Supplement
- $1,688  National Board Certification / Certificate Clinical Competence
- $3,070  Doctorate's Supplement (addition to Master's Supplement)

**Extra Block Supplements**

- 1/2 Block  6.25% of Contracted Salary Amount
- 1 Block   12.50% of Contracted Salary Amount
WAYNESBORO SCHOOL BOARD
MINUTES
March 19, 2019

The Waynesboro School Board met for a called meeting on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at Waynesboro High School. The meeting started at 8:00 p.m.

**Board Members:** Mrs. Kathe Maneval, Mr. Rick Wheeler, Mrs. Erika Smith, Mrs. Diana Williams, Mrs. Debra Freeman-Belle

**Absent Student Representative:** Mr. Patrick Maneval

**Administration:** Dr. Jeff Cassell, Mrs. Vermell Grant, Mrs. Vonda Hutchinson

**Other Staff:** Dr. Ryan Barber, Ms. Sue Wright, Mr. Jody Lohr, Dr. India Harris

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
   Chair Rick Wheeler called the Waynesboro School Board meeting to order. He then led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **CLOSED SESSION**
   A closed session was not needed at this time.

3. **INFORMATION REPORTS**
   A. FY20 Budget Approval
      Dr. Cassell presented an update on the proposed budget. This budget was not without a lot of discussion and consideration. One option that was seriously considered was the consolidation of our elementary schools, combining four school into three. We have found an alternate path to balancing our budget. It is not a pleasant path, nor does it move our school division forward.

      Since February 12, we have a General Assembly adopted budget. That resulted in $100,000.00 less revenue. We also had budgeted on 2920 students. We believe that number will be closer to 2900, so we’ve adjusted the ADM this budget was built on. That also reduces revenue more than $100,000.00. Therefore we have over $200,000.00 less revenue in this budget than the one presented in February.

      We have reduced the two non-salary items that are within our control, materials and supplies and technology. With our health insurance, we will implement a program in which health insurance will not be offered to employees’ spouses, if their spouse has other health insurance available.

      The remaining $882,000.00 to get to a balanced budget will come from salaries. To do that we will eliminate programs and/or positions. This will take approximately 14 teaching positions and 2 aide positions. We hope to accomplish this through resignations and retirements, by not filling or reassigning employees. We would like to offer a Retirement Incentive Program to assist in gaining the retirements needed to balance our budget. 3% raises have been given to all salary scales on all steps, except longevity steps. Those steps
will receive a 1% raise. Dr. Cassell stated this is not a budget anyone in his office is pleased with or proud of.

If additional revenue can be identified, we will contemplate an additional raise on steps where there is only a 1% raise currently, particularly for our support staff.

4. ACTION ITEMS
A. Adoption of FY2020 School Division Operating Fund Budget
Mrs. Maneval moved that the Waynesboro School Board approve the FY20 School Division Operating Fund Budget as presented. Mrs. Williams seconded the motion and it passed by voice vote. The Operating Fund budget is in the amount of $37,681,674.00.

B. Adoption of FY2020 School Division Textbook Fund Budget
Mrs. Williams moved that the Waynesboro School Board approve the FY20 School Division Textbook Fund Budget as presented. Mrs. Maneval seconded the motion and it passed by voice vote. The Textbook Fund budget is in the amount of $292,001.00.

C. Adoption of FY2020 School Division School Nutrition Fund Budget
Mrs. Williams moved that the Waynesboro School Board approve the FY20 School Division School Nutrition Fund Budget as presented. Mrs. Smith seconded the motion and it passed by voice vote. The School Nutrition Fund Budget is in the amount of $1,686,971.00.

D. Adoption of FY2020 School Division Salary Scales
Mrs. Maneval moved that the Waynesboro School Board approve the FY20 School Division Salary Scales as presented. Mrs. Freeman-Belle seconded the motion and it passed by voice vote.

E. Adoption of FY2020 School Division Fee Schedule and Miscellaneous/Substitute Pay Rates
Mrs. Williams moved that the Waynesboro School Board approve the FY20 School Division Fee Schedule and Miscellaneous/Substitute Pay Rates as presented. Mrs. Smith seconded the motion and it passed by voice vote.

F. Retirement Incentive Program
Mrs. Williams moved that the Waynesboro School Board approve the Retirement Incentive Program as presented. Mrs. Maneval seconded the motion and it passed by voice vote.

5. ADJOURNMENT
With no further business, Mr. Wheeler adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Submitted by Vonda A. Hutchinson.

H Rick Wheeler, Chairman

Vonda A. Hutchinson, Clerk
May 13, 2019

Remarks for Waynesboro Real Estate Tax Rate Discussion
Harry L. Colman 105 Tiffany Drive, Waynesboro, Va. 22980

Dear Members of City Council, City Staff, and fellow citizens, I am here with my new 2019 City Real Estate Reassessment which means a $151.20 increase. But frankly I would have to be a real hypocrite to pretend this is some unfair scheme by the city to hog and waste more of my money.

I’ve lived in this city now for 47 years, and at one time I had 3 children in the school system. I was employed for 37 years at DuPont, which became INVISTA. Considering my starting salary in 1972, I am darn grateful that I got a number of raises over that 37 year period. And not once did I decide to not accept a raise or ask to have my salary reduced. Because my family’s expenses and the prices of things we needed certainly continued to climb.

Our higher Real Estate assessment shows that home prices are rising again. But all the costs of properly running our city are increasing as well. The increase in revenue Waynesboro will receive by holding on to the current 0.90/$100.00 tax rate isn’t really even a raise; it is a cost of living adjustment for the city. I’m on a fixed income with no kids in school, but it is my responsibility as a citizen to pay my fair share. So yes, I ask City Council to approve continuing the present real estate tax rate.

The last time I spoke at a session just like this one, I did a number of hours of internet research to understand more about our city’s tax rate. I looked up city tax rates from 1999 to 2014 for all 37 incorporated cities in our state. I’ll simplify this time and ask Council to consider this:
1. Of all 50 states, Virginia ranks in 18th place for the lowest average real estate taxes.
2. Of all 37 cities in Virginia, Waynesboro ranks 31st on tax rates, with only 6 cities lower. Highest we ever got was one year at number 25.
3. Starting with a 0.97/$100 rate in 1999, Waynesboro dipped as low as $0.70 from 2007 to 2010 and is now back up to $0.90. But we cut our tax rate 15.98%, a larger percentage over that period of 1999 to 2014 than any other city in the state except one.

What I saw over this time was city council members playing politics with our tax rates. And I think that mentality has drastically harmed our city. Were they
acting responsibly? Our police department is understaffed and underpaid. City infrastructure is hurting with a major bridge out, waterline problems and crumbling sidewalks. And our School System is paying a horrible price. Our school system has had to cut professional positions and teaching assistants. And we’re once again borrowing money to rebuild a 1938 Vintage High School.

Indeed, large property owners got a real break. But our students, our teachers and policemen, our public workers, and our lowest income residents who need city services the most got a raw deal. We as a city did not do what is necessary to keep our city moving forward by letting our tax rates get lowered.

We have a new comprehensive plan for our city. We involved citizens and paid consultants to help with this plan. There are many things in that plan that we desperately need, but the city does not have funds to even start most of them. Nothing in the plan said that the future of our city hinges on cutting our already very LOW property tax rates. And if the next big potential company comes along looking for a key place to build, they will be more concerned about our school system and the educational level of our work force than about our already low tax rate.

I sincerely hope that you, our current city council members are brave enough to do what is required for Waynesboro’s future, not duplicate the mistakes of some past councils.